



Presbytery of Great Rivers Newsletter

Good News From Great Rivers

August 25, 2010

Mark Your Calendar

SUMMER HOURS

Mon.-Thurs. 8:00 - 4:00
Closed Friday

[August Calendar](#)
[September Calendar](#)

Bills and Overtures

Tuesday, August 31
10:00 - 12:00
First, Springfield

OFFICE CLOSED

Monday, September 6
Labor Day

Personnel Meeting

Tuesday, September 7
9:30
PGR

Interim Pastor's Group

Wednesday, September 8
11:30 - 1:30
PGR

Clergy Group

Thursday, September 9
10:00 - 11:30
PGR

Session Record Review

Saturday, September 18
9:30 - 12:00
United, Woodhull

Annual Pastor's Retreat

Friday, September 24
9:30 - 3:30
WeaverRidge in Peoria

COM

Tuesday, September 28
10:00 - 3:00
Northminster, Peoria

Quick Links

General Presbyter's Perspective Rev. Susan Krummel

This week's message from Sue has been posted for your viewing pleasure on Youtube. [Click Here](#)

A Report From One Of Your Commissioners To GA:

Over the next few weeks, we will be including in this newsletter some firsthand reports from your commissioners to the 219th General Assembly in Minneapolis. As you have probably heard by now, the Assembly sent several pieces of business to the presbyteries for our vote. There is a new confession for the Book of Confessions. It is called the Belhar Confession and grew out of the Reformed Church in South Africa during and after apartheid. There is a recommendation for a complete overhaul of our constitution. It is often referred to as "nFog" for "New Form of Government." And, there are nine overtures for us to address, including another recommendation that the specific language about "fidelity and chastity" with regard to ordination standards be replaced. The Visioning Council will soon be planning our presbytery meetings for next year in such a way that we will have sufficient time to devote to all of these topics. You might have also heard that the Assembly voted to denounce Caterpillar for its profit-making from its business practices in Israel/Palestine. This will not be the end of this discussion, since the Mission Responsibility Through Investments committee will continue its engagement with Caterpillar over the issues it has identified.

So, enjoy the reports of your commissioners. I am sure any of them would be happy to answer questions that you might have.

[Click here to read report from Julie Kasa.](#)

We Prayed For You This Week

During our staff meetings each week, the presbytery staff prays for some of our churches. We are sharing those churches with you, so that you, too, can pray for them. How strong we all are through the power of prayer.

Prairie City, First Presbyterian Church
Princeville, [First Presbyterian Church](#)
Quincy, Ellington Memorial Presbyterian Church
Quincy, New Church Development

"The Big Questions"

[PGR Website](#)
[PGR Library](#)
[PGR PhotoBucket](#)
[2010 Assembly Meetings](#)
[PC\(USA\) APA Brochure](#)
[PC\(USA\) Directed Giving](#)
[PC\(USA\) Presbyterian Women](#)

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2nd Annual Great Rivers' Pastors' Retreat

Featuring Dr. William Greenway
Associate Professor of Philosophical Theology
Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary

Friday, September 24, 2010
9:30am - 2:30pm
\$25 per person, includes lunch
[WeaverRidge Golf Club](#)
5100 WeaverRidge Blvd. Peoria, IL 61615



Go to [Austin Seminary](#) or click [here](#) for more information regarding Bill Greenway.

RSVP before Monday, September 13. Pastors can register for the day by contacting [Julie](#). Please mail your \$25 to the presbytery office, or it can be paid the day of the meeting, make your check payable to Presbytery of Great Rivers.

Pastors, please fill out the linked [questionnaire](#) and email it to [Phillip Blackburn](#). This information will be used in the planning for the pastors' retreat.

Biking Across The U.S.

Rev. Jerry Boutelle has completed his bicycling journey across the United States. He rode 35 days and 2,624 miles in the summer of 2009. Jerry rode another 1,665 miles from June 21 to July 13, 2010 (22 days) to finish the 4,289 mile journey.

Between last summer and this summer Jerry rode his bike through 10 states: Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky and Virginia. This summer he started in Cassidy, Kansas and finished in Virginia.

Of course there were obstacles along the way, 21 mountain passes, steep grades, single lane roads, construction, unpaved roads, Judy, his wife, who drove the camper behind him, having to take a different route than him and 20 miles down the road meeting back up, oh, and lets not forget the pit-bull that surprised him from behind, bit into his arm and dragged him off of his bike.

If you like a challenge and this sounds like fun to you, minus the pit-bull, you can find a path that suits you on the website Jerry used [Adventure Cycling Association](#).

What a great accomplishment! This is proof that you too can set goals and achieve them. Jerry, we're glad you and Judy are back home safe and sound.

In the words of the Rev. Jerry Boutelle, "It's fun to be retired."

Session Record Review

There is one Session Record Reviews left this year (three have already been completed!) The review will be held on Saturday from 9:30 am to noon. Clerks of Session, please RSVP as soon as possible to [Julie](#). REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR COVER SHEET and FORM AND, PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THIS IS A **REQUIREMENT OF THE BOOK OF ORDER!**

September 18 - United, Woodhull **RSVP by September 9**

Prior to the meeting fill out your worksheet in pen.

[2010 Session Record Review Cover Sheet](#)
[2010 Session Record Review Form](#)

Local Church History Seminar Presented by Presbyterian Historical Society

October 21-24, 2010
Heartland Presbyterian Center

Parkville, MO

Workshops on:

- Presbyterian History
- Oral History
- Writing a Congregation History
- Managing Congregation Records
- Preserving Congregation Records
- Disaster Preparedness
- Celebrating a Congregation Anniversary

[Click here for brochure and more information.](#)

Unity & Reformed Heritage Seminar Sponsored by: The Office of the GA of the PC(USA)

March 21-28, 2011
Geneva, Switzerland

To request and application for this seminar:
Call or E-mail: [Deborah Harrison](#) 1-888-728-7228 ext. 5665
[Click here for complete seminar schedule of events.](#)
Registration Deadline: February 7, 2011

Operation Stand Down

There is a program in Peoria called "Operation Stand Down" which reaches out to homeless veterans. The operation will take place at O'Brien Field, the home of the Peoria Chiefs baseball team, on **Saturday, October 23** at midday.

The outreach includes haircuts, a meal, the opportunity to use the locker rooms to take showers and entertainment. The presbytery has used \$5000 of our peacemaking money to support this program. We would also like to provide some volunteers. They need hairdressers, people to provide and serve coffee, people who can help with setting up and taking down chairs, and general volunteers. If you are interested in helping, please contact [Julie Bainbridge](#) and more details will be provided to you.

Presbyterian Youth Triennium 2010 A Thank You From The National Registrar

[Click here](#) to read the thank you from Vennie Constant, National Registrar of the 2010 Presbyterian Youth Triennium.



Upcoming "Green" Events By Laurie Vial, Energy Consultant

I'm always interested in "green" forums, events, expos, etc. and I have several to highlight in this column. If you hear of a "green" event in or near the Presbytery of Great Rivers borders please let me know so I can promote it.

On **Saturday, Sept. 11** in Normal, IL, at Anderson Park on College Avenue, there is a "Freecycle" sponsored by the Ecology Action Center. Bring toys, books, clothing, household items, etc. that you no longer want or need and take things you do need. In fact you do not have to bring something to take something. The time is 9 a.m. to noon. Check it out!

On **Saturday, Sept. 25** at Sugargrove Nature Center, part of the Funks Grove complex near Shirley, IL, there is Green Fete from noon to 6 p.m. The Green Fete Festival is a family friendly gathering of green living, sustainability, organic, vegan and raw foods, music, art, dance and

more. Green Fete workshops and festivals are community events for people seeking a positive and healthy lifestyle. Organizations and businesses will be showcasing programs and products that promote a healthy/green lifestyle. The Green Fete Festival will have speakers and instructors from various subjects presenting short workshops with the festival audience. Represented are Yoga, Tai Chi, Tae Kwon Do, NIA (Neuromuscular Integrated Aerobics), Meditation, Organic Food, Raw Food, Bee Keeping, Alternative/Renewable Energy and others. Performing between workshops is the artist cooperative called "Human Element." Visit the [Green Fete Festival website](#) for more information and fees.

On **Oct. 28-30** plan on taking in all or part of the 2010 Illinois Energy Expo. It's free and open to the public.

- On Oct. 28 there are business workshops and an expo from 1 to 5 p.m.
- On Oct. 29 there are business workshops and expo and well as information on solar and transportation from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- On Oct. 30 there is a residential workshop and expo from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

It's at the Marriott Conference Center, Normal, IL. Presenters will offer information about energy efficient and alternative energy technologies as well as financial assistance and incentives for residential, commercial and industrial. For more information go to [APEC website](#).

To contact me, e-mail Laurie. (greenenergy@greatriverspby.org) Until next week let's all strive to be good stewards of God's earth.

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